

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1, 10, and 14, and adding new claims 18-22. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 29, 2004.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reason set forth at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant is amending claims 10 and 14 to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chalmers et al. (USP 4,738,304). Claims 8 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chalmers et al. (USP 4,738,304) in view of Cima (USP 4,890,668).

Applicant has made stylistic amendments to independent claim 1. These amendments are not new matter.

With respect to amended, independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least because Chalmers does not teach or suggest all of the claim's recitations. For example, Chalmers does not teach or suggest the claimed equipment having an electronic module, at least one heat transfer means, and connector means.

Applicant notes that this claim recites “heat transfer means for ...” and “connector means for ...”, which the Examiner is required to interpret under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph, as limited to the corresponding structure, materials or acts described in the specification and the equivalents thereof. *See In re Donaldson*, 29 USPQ2d 1845, 1848-50 (Fed. Cir. 1994); and Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure (“MPEP”) Section 2181.

With respect to the exemplary embodiments of the invention disclosed in the present specification, a pipe 22 of equipment 20 is connected to transport line 29 of the satellite support structure 24; and evaporator assembly 24 of equipment 20b is connected to the transport line 36 of the satellite support structure 24. *See* Specification at Figs. 4-5a.

Chalmers discloses a spacecraft 10 having a free standing radiator assembly 30. *See* Chalmers at Fig. 1. Chalmers’ radiator assembly includes coupling units 214, 216, 218, 220 that connect individual radiators 224, 226 to the vapor manifold 210 and liquid manifold 212. *See* Chalmers at Fig. 2a & 3:61-68.

Applicant respectfully submits that Chalmers does not teach or suggest a structure that is the same as or the equivalent of Applicants’ “heat transfer means for ...” and “connector means for” If the Examiner wishes to maintain the rejection of independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide the analysis discussed at MPEP §§ 2181-2186 for the recited “transfer means for ...” and “connector means for”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 9 and 11-13. Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 8 and 14-17 at least

because of their dependency from claim 1 and because Cima, which was cited by the Examiner as showing a two-phase system for spacecrafts, does not cure the deficiencies in Chalmers discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant holds in abeyance the rewriting of these claims in independent form until the Examiner has had the opportunity to consider the remarks above with respect to independent claim 1.

New Claims

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant is adding new claims 18-24.

Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claim 18 is allowable at least because of its dependency from claim 1.

With respect to new independent claim 19, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is allowable at least because there is no combination of Chalmers and Cima that would reasonably teach or suggest the claimed system including a radiator, a support structure, having a main fluid conduit containing a fluid that transfers heat to the radiator, and equipment supported by the support structure having an electronic module, a module fluid conduit, and a connector that couples said module fluid conduit to the main fluid conduit, the connector structured to be decoupled from the main fluid conduit.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Chalmers merely discloses the structure of the *radiator 30*, and does not disclose a structure that could reasonably be considered the recited equipment having an electronic module, a fluid conduit, and a connector that can be decoupled from a main fluid conduit.

For example, Chalmer's coupling units 214, 216, 218, 220, which connect individual radiators 224, 226 to the vapor manifold 210 and liquid manifold 212, are merely controllable valves which would prevent the flow of fluid to the liquid manifold or the vapor manifold. These valves are not structured to allow the radiators 224, 226 be decoupled from the liquid or vapor manifold. *See* Chalmers at 3:61-68. Moreover, these coupling units 214, 216, 218, 220 are features of a radiator 30 and not an equipment having an electronic module.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that new dependent claims 20-24 are allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 19.

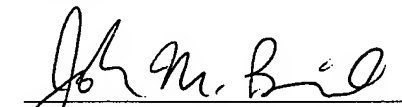
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/676,117

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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